A seven member committee headed by the Chief Minister of Kerala has been constituted to look into various aspects of population control programmes and make recommendations for formulation of a National Population Policy and working out appropriate strategies for effective population control measures.

Regulation of capitation fee in medical colleges

998. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to direct the medical colleges in the country to admit a certain percentage of students purely on merit, through a legislation seeking to regulate capitation fee being charged from students;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) by when such a Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) A Bill to amend Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, providing for admission of a certain number of seats on merit on the basis of All India Examination and prohibition of collection of capitation fee by medical colleges and fixation of tuition fee by the Medical Council of India was already introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1987. There is a provision for penalities for contravention of the relevant provisions in regard to collection of capitation fee.

(c) No definite time limit can be given at present regarding consideration of the Bill and passing by Parliament.

New family Planning scheme for U.P.

999. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a new family planning scheme for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether Government have invited suggestions/comments from various voluntary organisations and experts engaged in the task in the U.P. State before finalising the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) A new Family Planning project is being developed for Uttar Pradesh, on the basis of an offer of assistance amounting to $ 325 million received from United States Agency for International Development. It will be implemented over a period of 10 years beginning from the date of its actual operationalisation. Initially, the project would be launched in 32 poor performing districts, which had a birth rate of 39 per 1000 population or more as per 1981 census.

Broadly speaking, the project aims at decreasing the Total Fertility Rate in U.P. from a level of 5.4 (1988) to less than 4 and increasing Couple Protection Rate from about 35.5 per cent (March, 1991) to 50 per cent by 2002 A.D. The project would aim at identifying the gaps in different districts between the requirement and the actual availability of services so as to prepare need-based strategies to bridge the gaps.

Special attention would be paid to (i) improving the quality and outreach of services, (ii) promoting spacing methods of family planning to cover younger age couples with high fertility potential, (iii) evolving comprehensive and innovative communication programmes which address the needs and concerns of both husbands and wives for effectve demand gene-

ration, (iv) strengthening of social marketing and community based distribution programmes for contraceptives. (v) signicantly expanding the role and participation of private sector and NGOs, (vi) evolving strong institutional mechanisms for comprehensive monitoring, assessment and operational research, (vii) supporting training activities of service-providers and (viii) evolving models for diffusion of innovative approaches that will have wide applicability throughout India especially in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) Suggestions/comments from various organisations and experts engaged in the task in the Uttar Pradesh State would be taken into account in the process of project development.

AIDS virus in Vijayawada

1000. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 17th February, 1992 under the caption "AIDS virus has the last laugh in Vijayawada";

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained details of this state of affairs in Vijayawada;

(c) what is the exact position in Vijayawada with regard to AIDS;

(d) what specific steps are being taken to attend to the problem there; and

(e) what is the reaction of Andhra Pradesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes. The Government has seen the news article in the question.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Technology mission on population

1001. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a technology mission on population and also introduction of a National Movement for Population Control (NMPC);

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that several organisations including PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also communicated similar views to the Government for population control; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Technology Mission on Population Control. It is felt that considering the multi-dimensional and complex nature of the population problem involving deep-rooted personal beliefs, attitudinal and socio-cultural factors, a Technology Mission approach to the problem would not be feasible.

For the success of the Population Control active involvement of all sections of the people in the programme is of vital importance. Transforming the population control programme into a national movement requires a broad national concensus and commitment of people in all strata of the society. During the past few months, concrete steps have been taken to have a national consensus to meet the challenge of stabilising the population growth in the country. These are summarised below:—

(i) The population problem was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) where there was unanimity that population control should be kept above